The Franklin County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 9 am at the Main Library in Rocky Mount. Members present were Chairman Bill Mitchell, Keith Ferrell, Sharon Tudor, Doug Pafford, Sarah Ann Bowman, John Leary and Director Alison Barry. Bethany Worley was unable to attend and had notified the board in advance of her absence.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS: The Board reviewed the statistical and financial reports provided by Director, Alison Barry.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Director reported that the library is doing well financially with expenditures continuing on-target and within budget for the fiscal year.

This year’s Summer Reading Programs (children and adult) are attracting large numbers of sign-ups.

The library is fully staffed for summer, and the staff is looking forward to another productive season of working with patrons and providing events that will build upon the library’s already strong attendance and patron-usage rates.

NEW BUSINESS:

T-shirts for this year’s Summer Reading Program (children) have been designed and approved, an it is expected that they will prove popular with the kids who are signing up for the program in record numbers.

New computers have been installed and configured for patron use. Because a growing number of patrons bring their own devices to the library, the Director was able to reduce the number of public computers without diminishing availability for patrons. Space formerly occupied by computer stations has been converted to public seating and tables, which has proved popular with patrons.

From the application from the Library, the Federal E-Rate program will be providing the County with approximately $7,000.00 in funds to help defray Internet bills.

The Westlake Friends of the Library’s loss of tax-exempt status has not been resolved and continues to be problematic. The ramifications of the status-loss were discussed in terms of potential cutbacks and, if necessary, elimination of programs at the branch. This year’s Westlake Library Book Sale has been canceled as a result of the Friends’ tax status.

Board Member J. L. Leary (Gills Creek) announced that he is relocating and in consequence would be leaving the Board. The Director and the other Board Members thanked JL for his services to the library and cordially wished him well.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:00 am Submitted by: Keith Ferrell